

March 7, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Wayne County circuit judge accused of misconduct

"The state's Judicial Tenure Commission filed a formal complaint Thursday against a Wayne County Circuit judge who's accused of official misconduct. The commission asked the Michigan Supreme Court to appoint a special master — typically a retired judge — to oversee a formal hearing of the case against Judge Bruce Morrow."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Wayne County Judge Bruce Morrow accused of misconduct, 'abuse of judicial power'

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Wayne County judge accused of misconduct; Judicial Tenure Commission files formal proceedings against Judge Bruce Morrow

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Bruce Morrow hit with Judicial Tenure Complaint

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Woman's failed FOIA request case could result in bigger award, appeals court rules

"... In an opinion released Wednesday, the Michigan Court of Appeals said [Nancy] Prins may be entitled to more than the \$12,250 in attorney fees she was earlier awarded, but she is not entitled to compensatory damages. Prins was earlier awarded \$500 in punitive damages, which the appeals court did not overturn."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Press & Argus.

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: Failed FOIA request case could mean bigger award, says COA

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: House OKs electronic records bill

"The Michigan House approved legislation Wednesday to allow courts to maintain electronic records and use electronic court filings. The bill now goes to the Senate. The bill, introduced by state Rep. Kurt Heise, R-Plymouth, removes the restriction against electronic records and will allow the courts to determine the best method for record-keeping and filing."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Judge: Medical marijuana users can collect jobless benefits

"[Ingham County Circuit Judge William Collette] has ruled that medical marijuana users who follow the state's medical marijuana law may collect unemployment benefits. [The judges'] decision Tuesday overturned a state commission that found a state-approved medical marijuana user wasn't eligible for benefits after being fired following a drug test."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Michigan judge rules jobless benefits OK for medical marijuana users

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Medical marijuana users eligible for unemployment benefits, Ingham judge rules

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Detroit school board goes to court, accuses Roberts of violating order

"The Detroit school board filed a motion in Wayne County Circuit Court accusing Roy Roberts, the state-appointed emergency financial manager, of violating a Feb. 20 court order that confirmed the board's authority over the school system's academic operations."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: DPS board asks judge to hold Roberts in contempt

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Fourth murder trial begins for Clinton Township grandma

"... Terry Borgia, 63, is charged with felony murder, first-degree child abuse and involuntary manslaughter. The prosecution reconfigured the charges after a third mistrial in the case occurred in December, when a jury deadlocked."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Macomb Daily: Grandmother faces fourth murder trial in grandson's drowning

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland Press.

The Detroit News: Hearing delayed in stabbing death of MSU student

"... A preliminary hearing for Connor McCowan of Okemos was scheduled for Thursday in Mason District Court to determine if there's enough evidence for trial. WLNS-TV reports it's been delayed until April 18 because [Ingham County District Court Judge Thomas Boyd] knew McCowan's family and removed himself from the case."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Oakland Press: Hearing delayed in stabbing death of MSU student from Oakland Township

[Full story](#)

WLNS-TV(6)/Lansing: Trial Delayed for Man Accused of Stabbing MSU Student

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Judge delays ruling on gay marriage ban, will wait for Supreme Court decision

"U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman said today he will wait for the U.S. Supreme Court to decide two gay marriage cases before ruling on a whether Michigan's ban on same-sex marriage is constitutional."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Judge will wait on ruling in challenge to Michigan gay marriage ban

[*Full story*](#)

MLive.com: Michigan gay marriage ban challenged by Hazel Park same-sex couple; decision expected this summer

[*Full story*](#)

Detroit Legal News: Program offers high school students 'moot court' experience (second article)

"... 'Exploring Careers in the Law,' is open to students entering grades 10 through 12 in fall 2013 and 2013 graduates. Participants meet July 29 — August 2 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each day. The application deadline is May 31, 2013."

[*Full story*](#)

Also see:

High School Students Can Experience 'Moot Court' Through Supreme Court Learning Center Summer Program

[*Press release*](#)

Detroit Legal News: ABA: Judges who participate in social networking should heed conduct code

"Judges may participate in electronic social networking, but as with all social relationships and contacts, they must comply with relevant judicial ethics provisions, according to a new ethics opinion from the American Bar Association."

[*Full story*](#)

The Herald-Palladium/St. Joseph: Hope for 17-year-old prisoner?

"Will Dakotah Eliason spend the rest of his life in prison? Three years after the teen shot and killed his step grandfather at his grandparents' home near Buchanan, his lawyer said he is hopeful that the answer is 'no' following federal and state court decisions in the last year."

[*Full story*](#)

Ingham County Legal News: The Lincoln Lawyer: Judge becomes story-telling 16th president

"Every February, 35th District Court Judge Ron Lowe of Plymouth dons a stovepipe hat and black suit and becomes a storytelling Abraham Lincoln. And last week, he enjoyed it all the more as he spoke for the first time to law school students at a 'Dinner with Lincoln' presentation."

[*Full story*](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson City medical marijuana work group discusses possibilities, no decision made on proposal

"... In between meetings, however, a Michigan Supreme Court ruling has resulted in the Jackson County Prosecutor shutting down the county's 18 dispensaries. Much of the discussion Wednesday revolved around how that would affect the ordinance."

[*Full story*](#)

Jackson County Legal News: Live from the Hall of Justice!; Supreme Court starts live streaming hearings

"Starting this week, the Michigan Supreme Court is offering another option for those who want to follow Court hearings: live streaming via the Internet. Live streaming the Court's hearings 'is a natural extension of this Court's commitment to transparency,' said Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Washtenaw County Legal News.

Also see:

Live from the Hall of Justice! Supreme Court starts live streaming hearings

[Press release](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Former appellate judge remembered for dedication

"Robert J. Danhof, the long-time chief judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals and a delegate to the 1961-62 Michigan Constitutional Convention, will be remembered for his intelligence, leadership, and dedication to public service, said Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. and Court of Appeals Chief Judge William B. Murphy."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Robert J. Danhof, former Michigan Court of Appeals chief judge, delegate to 1961-62 state Constitutional Convention, mourned by Michigan courts

[Press release](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Interfaith dinner held at Cooley

"Thomas M. Cooley Law School's Auburn Hills campus recently hosted its third annual Interfaith Dinner. Several judges and attorneys spoke about how their religion affects their practice and careers."

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: With video interview: Macomb's Viviano a Supreme Court justice

"Macomb County Chief Judge David Viviano named Feb. 27 the next Michigan Supreme Court justice by Gov. Rick Snyder. Viviano, 41, will fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of former Justice Diane Hathaway and is the first high court justice to hail from Macomb County since the 1950s."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune.

Also see:

Chief Justice Young: New Justice Viviano is "exceptional" choice for Court

[Press release](#)

The Macomb Daily: Macomb Probate Court slashed from 2 to 1 judge

"The move to one judge at Macomb County Probate Court has been completed as part of a 'total overhaul' at probate and to ease the crowded circuit court docket. Judge Carl Marlinga, elected a probate judge last fall, this week became the sole judge at the court for both probate divisions: will and estates, and mental (commitments and developmentally disabled guardianships)."

[Full story](#)

The Macomb Daily: Shelby removes hurdle to court relocation

"Shelby Township's 41A District Court took a giant step toward Macomb Township this week after Shelby Township officials finally removed a major hurdle that hindered the possible move. Tuesday's approval by the Shelby Township Board of a plan to divide long-term retiree health care costs between the two communities cleared the way for Macomb Township officials to proceed with plans to construct a new facility to house the court."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also in the Oakland Press.

The Macomb Daily: Macomb County courts start long-range video hearings

"Macomb County has expanded its use of video in the courts to allow for judicial hearings with parties in remote locations throughout Michigan. The new technology saves time and money for the court system locally and statewide by nixing the transportation of inmates to and from jails, prisons and other detention facilities hundreds of miles away, officials said."

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: The balance of women to men on Michigan's Supreme Court

"The State Supreme Court began hearing cases this week with a full bench. With Governor Snyder's appointment of new Justice David Viviano to replace former Justice Diane Hathaway, it was the first time in some six weeks that the court has had seven sitting justices."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Grand Rapids is one of the nation's most active markets for real estate short sales

"... Short sellers also have to go through a lengthy process of proving their delinquency is genuine and assets are not being hidden. Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway resigned on Jan. 21 after she and her husband were charged with hiding assets from their lender while trying to negotiate a short sale."

[Full story](#)

The Morning Sun: Gratiot cuts courthouse security, draws ire

"Two surprise resolutions passed by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners pulled the rug out underneath courthouse security, Greater Gratiot Development and the MSU Extension office. In a 3-2 vote, commissioners approved the elimination of the tax that helps pay for the development agency and MSU extension, as well as cutting courthouse security."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Friend of the Court panel to meet March 11

"The Oakland County Friend of the Court (FOC) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), established by Friend of the Court Act 294, 1982, Section 552.594, will meet Monday, March 11, at 10 a.m. at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners' Auditorium, Pernick Conference Room, at 1200 North Telegraph in Pontiac."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Small claims workshop

"Legal Aid and Defender Association Inc. (LAD) conducted a free workshop on small claims court on Tuesday, Feb. 19, at the Ferndale Public Library in Ferndale. The workshop is one of a series designed to teach residents of Wayne, Macomb, and Oakland counties how to represent themselves in small claims court and collect money judgments."

[Full story](#)

Washtenaw County Legal News: Commentary: Put this argument to bed

"Antonio Dunigan, doing five to 40 years for home invasion, probably figured he had found his get-out-of-jail-free card. He got convicted, he would argue, because his lawyer was incompetent and had failed to go after a juror who fell asleep during his trial. In People v. Dunigan, he asked the Michigan Court of Appeals to give him a hearing for that purpose."

[Full story](#)

Washtenaw County Legal News: District Courts offering limited amnesty program

"Two of Washtenaw County's District Courts are offering an amnesty program for certain types of tickets from March 1 through April 30. During this period, the 14A and 14B District Courts will waive all penalties and late fees for outstanding traffic civil infractions and parking violations."

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: Michigan ACLU on 'Right to Work' lawsuit

"Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette has taken action to dismiss a lawsuit seeking to overturn the state's controversial right-to-work law. In January, a coalition of groups including the ACLU, the Michigan AFL-CIO, the Michigan Education Association and others filed the suit on the grounds that the December passage of Right to Work violated the State's Open Meetings Act."

[Full story](#)